

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended): A lead-acid battery which comprises a positive electrode, a negative electrode, a separator and an electrolyte, wherein:

said separator contains a surfactant;

said electrolyte contains volatile organic acid, and

a content of said volatile organic acid is equal to 250 mg or lower per liter of said electrolyte.

2. (original): The lead-acid battery according to claim 1, wherein the content of said volatile organic acid is equal to 12 mg or higher per liter of said electrolyte.

3. (previously presented): The lead-acid battery according to claim 1 or 2, wherein said volatile organic acid is selected from a group consisting of HCOOH, CH₃COOH, C₂H₅COOH, n-C₃H₇COOH, iso-C₃H₇COOH, and mixtures thereof.

4. (canceled).

5. (previously presented): The lead-acid battery according to claim 1 or 2, wherein said separator is composed of polyethylene.

6. (withdrawn) A method of manufacturing a lead-acid battery which comprises a positive electrode, a negative electrode, a separator and an electrolyte, wherein:

said separator contains a surfactant, and

said method comprises a first step in which said lead-acid battery is container-formed; a second step in which said lead-acid battery is left at 40°C or higher for 12 hours or longer; and a third step in which said lead-acid battery is charge so as to make a charged electrical quantity equal to a rated capacity or larger.

7. (withdrawn) A method of manufacturing a lead-acid battery which comprises a positive electrode, a negative electrode, a separator, and an electrolyte, wherein:

said separator contains a surfactant, and

said method comprises a step of leaving said lead-acid battery at 40°C or higher for 12 hours or longer, followed by charging said lead-acid battery with 30% or higher of a theoretical capacity of a positive active material provided in said positive electrode.

8. (withdrawn) The method of manufacturing the lead-acid battery according to claim 6 or 7, wherein said separator is composed of polyethylene.